WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A computer implemented method comprising:
2   retrieving an enhanced presence ping bit;

3   identifying that the enhanced presence ping bit is
4   enabled, wherein the enablement of the enhanced
5   presence ping bit corresponds to an enhanced presence
6   ping mode;

7   collecting enhanced status information based upon the
8   identification; and

9   sending the enhanced status information to an access
10   point over a wireless network.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2   determining that a timer is enabled, the timer
3   corresponding to a time at which to send the enhanced
4   status information;

5   detecting that the enabled timer has expired; and

6   performing the collecting and the sending in response
7   to the detecting.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2   receiving a ping request from the access point; and

3   performing the collecting and the sending in response
4   to receiving the ping request.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the enhanced status
2   information is selected from the group consisting of a
3   total packet number, a signal strength, and a system
4   power state.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   receiving an enhanced presence ping control packet

3   from the access point; and

4   enabling the enhanced presence ping bit in response to

5   receiving the enhanced presence ping control packet.

1   6.   The method of claim 5 wherein the access point is

2   adapted to send the enhanced presence ping control

3   packet in response to receiving an administrator

4   request from an administrator, and wherein the access

5   point is also adapted to provide the collected

6   enhanced status information to the administrator.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless network

2   functions as a shared transmission medium.

1   8.   An information handling system comprising:

2   one or more processors;

3   a memory accessible by the processors;

4   one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by

5   the processors;

6   one or more registers;

7   one or more timers; and

8   a enhanced presence ping tool for providing enhanced

9   status information, the enhanced presence ping tool

10   comprising software code effective to:

11   retrieve an enhanced presence ping bit from

12   one of the registers;

13   identify that the enhanced presence ping bit

14   is enabled, wherein the enablement of the

15   enhanced presence ping bit corresponds to an

16   enhanced presence ping mode;

17   collect enhanced status information from one

18   of the nonvolatile storage devices based

19   upon the identification; and

20   send the enhanced status information to an

21   access point over a wireless network.

1   9.   The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the

2   software code is further effective to:

3   determine that one of the timers is enabled, the timer

4   corresponding to a time at which to send the enhanced

5   status information;

6   detect that the enabled timer has expired; and

7   perform the collecting and the sending in response to

8   the detecting.

1   10.   The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the

2   software code is further effective to:

3   receive a ping request from the access point; and

4   perform the collecting and the sending in response to

5   receiving the ping request.

1   11.   The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the

2   enhanced status information is selected from the group

3   consisting of a total packet number, a signal

4   strength, and a system power state.

1   12. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the
2   software code is further effective to:
3   receive an enhanced presence ping control packet from
4   the access point; and

5   enable the enhanced presence ping bit in response to
6   receiving the enhanced presence ping control packet.

1   13. The information handling system of claim 12 wherein
2   the access point is adapted to send the enhanced
3   presence ping control packet in response to receiving
4   an administrator request from an administrator, and
5   wherein the access point is also adapted to provide
6   the collected enhanced status information to the
7   administrator.

1   14. A program product comprising:
2   computer operable medium having computer program code,
3   the computer program code being effective to:

4   retrieve an enhanced presence ping bit;

5   identify that the enhanced presence ping bit
6   is enabled, wherein the enablement of the
7   enhanced presence ping bit corresponds to an
8   enhanced presence ping mode;

9   collect enhanced status information based
10   upon the identifying; and

11   send the enhanced status information to an
12   access point over a wireless network.

1   15. The program product of claim 14 wherein the software
2   code is further effective to:

3   determine that a timer is enabled, the timer

4   corresponding to a time at which to send the enhanced

5   status information;

6   detect that the enabled timer has expired; and

7   perform the collecting and the sending in response to

8   the detecting.

1   16.   The program product of claim 14 wherein the software

2   code is further effective to:

3   receive a ping request from the access point; and

4   perform the collecting and the sending in response to

5   receiving the ping request.

1   17.   The program product of claim 14 wherein the enhanced

2   status information is selected from the group

3   consisting of a total packet number, a signal

4   strength, and a system power state.

1   18.   The program product of claim 14 wherein the software

2   code is further effective to:

3   receive an enhanced presence ping control packet from

4   the access point; and

5   enable the enhanced presence ping bit in response to

6   receiving the enhanced presence ping control packet.

1   19.   The program product of claim 18 wherein the access

2   point is adapted to send the enhanced presence ping

3   control packet in response to receiving an

4   administrator request from an administrator, and

5   wherein the access point is also adapted to provide

6   the collected enhanced status information to the

7   administrator.

1   20. The program product of claim 14 wherein the wireless

2   network functions as a shared transmission medium.